



# Allandale Neighbor

June 2011  
Vol 26, Issue 3

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## The New Burnet Road Market

Tom Linehan

**M**aking the 6701 Burnet Road Farmers Market the area's go-to Market is certainly a challenge after it was closed for four years, but that is what property owner Paz Dhody has charged Jean "J" Kruse with doing. It has been almost two months since the Farmers Market re-opened, and in that time J, the Market Director, has brought in farmers and food vendors for the weekly Thursday and Saturday Farmers

Markets, hosted a number of events, and contracted with a few mobile food trucks to locate there. Paz and J's vision is for the Market to be a place where people from Allandale and other area neighborhoods can come to shop for locally sourced products – produce, eggs, honey, meats, and artisan-prepared foods, as well as hang out and enjoy local music and food.

The place has come full circle from when the property was sold four years ago to Dhody and the Farmers Market closed. Up until that time it had been in operation for 19 years and was one of the original farmers markets in the City. Travis County owned the property, but in 2007 it got out of the business of being a landlord. Instead of



*Saturday morning at the 6701 Burnet Road Market*

renewing its lease with Hill Rylander, who managed the property, it put it up for sale. At that time, activity at the Farmers Market was in decline. Farmers had been slowly migrating to the other markets that had sprung up in the City.

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### HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

The next ANA EC Meeting is June 23, 6:30 p.m., Covenant Hall, Covenant Presbyterian Church. The meeting is open to the public.

## The Allandale Neighbor

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PRESIDENT Cynthia Keohane  
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TREASURER Diane Swinney  
SECRETARY Karen Knight  
MEMBERS George Roman, Rob  
Robinson, Sara Sternberg,  
Dan Diener, Joi Chevalier,  
Mat Thompson  
and Laura DiCarlo

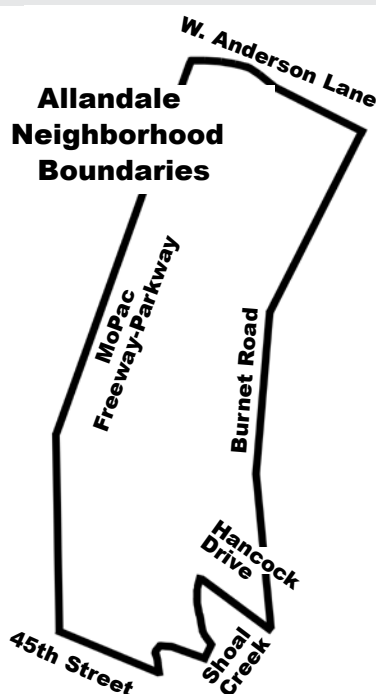
ANA General Meetings are held March and September  
on the fourth Thursday.

### Committees

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SAFETY Laura DiCarlo  
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### Allandale Police District Representatives

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## ANA President's Letter

Cynthia Keohane

Plans are well underway for the July 4 parade. If you would like to help the neighborhood, yet can't commit to an ongoing volunteer role, the parade may be perfect for you. Volunteer opportunities include getting the parade folks lined up, judging the entries, and setting up and taking down sound equipment, tables, etc. Contact Donna Beth at [dbmc@texas.net](mailto:dbmc@texas.net).

At May's Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) meeting, we heard about the Neighborhood Habitat Challenge. This is an annual contest of the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, where the City of Austin and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) challenge its neighborhoods to make Austin a more wildlife-friendly city. Prizes are awarded to the three neighborhoods certifying the most new wildlife habitats between April 15 and November 15, 2011. The Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) won second place several years ago. Joi Chevalier will publicize this for ANA.

Also at ANC, Sebastian Wren from the Northfield Neighborhood Association spoke about "stealth dorms" in his neighborhood. Developers buy a small house, tear it down, and build a house with multiple mini kitchens and bathrooms. These are designated as single family, yet code compliance says they cannot document inappropriate use.

Single member districts are again under discussion. Mayor Leffingwell has endorsed a 6-2-1 arrangement with six single members, two at large and the mayor. Neighborhood representatives are divided between a 8-4-1 or a 10-1 plan. The mayor has asked Marc Ott to draft an amendment to the charter outlining his preference.

If there is anything you want the Allandale Neighborhood Association to be aware of, please let me know. As an all-volunteer organization, we cannot get involved in everything, but we will try to assist. Unfortunately, we can't act on anonymous requests, such as the letter about an abandoned car that was recently sent to our post office box. (Note to the sender: yes, this is handled by calling 311, and you should be given a tracking number for follow-up). ♦

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## The New Burnet Road Market

*Continued from front page*

J's plans for reviving the Market have to do with building off its long history as a farmers market, capitalizing on the site's ideal location and layout with its covered stalls, targeting folks in the north central Austin neighborhoods, and having an ongoing schedule of family-friendly events and local music. She has plans for a variety of events throughout the year, including themed days to keep people coming back. In May, she hosted the annual Violet Crown Festival put on by the Brentwood and Crestview Neighborhoods. In June, she will be opening up the Market's Foodie Truck Court, with the grand opening scheduled for June 16 and 18. She is very excited about that. Other planned themed days include a tomato fest, a watermelon fest, and a "Kids Cook at the Market" day. On June 11, the Market will be starting a kids' farmers program.

I visited the new Burnet Road Farmers Market for myself on a Saturday morning in May. My intent was to quickly pick up some produce, check out the offerings, and head home. I picked out my produce in no time, but while exploring the other offerings I came upon the Chuck Wagon Picnic, one of the events the Market was hosting. It was a fundraiser for Boy Scout Troop 413. They had Dutch ovens sitting out on hot coals cooking cobbler. And what better way to enjoy peach cobbler than to do it while listening to live rock 'n' roll. It was late morning at the Market and students from the School of Rock located in Northcross were entertaining the crowd with some good old rock 'n' roll. Songs by Aretha Franklin, Devo, Led Zepplin, and other well-known rockers were being belted out with the same

enthusiasm you would find at a late night party...almost. I've got to give the teenagers credit, morning and daylight are not ideal conditions for performing Devo's *Uncontrollable Urge*. But there I was, listening to live rock 'n' roll and eating peach cobbler at the neighborhood Farmers Market on a late Saturday morning in May...kind of weird.

6701 Burnet Road Farmers Market is open Thursdays, 4:00-8:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. For more information go to [6701burnetroadmarket.com](http://6701burnetroadmarket.com) or contact J Kruse, Market Director, 879-8565, or [info@6701burnetroadmarket.com](mailto:info@6701burnetroadmarket.com). ❖



*Owner Paz Dhoby and Market Director J Kruse*



*Ian McCord from School of Rock sings "Uncontrollable Urge" by Devo*



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## McCallum's New Theater

Walter Brewer

For some time now, drivers on Koenig near the Lamar intersection have been awed by the mammoth new theater rising skyward near McCallum High School. The massive construction project will soon become the crown jewel of the Theatre at McCallum Fine Arts Academy.

The area's architectural marvel will seat 523 and encompass 25,635 square feet of space. The highest point is about 75 feet. McCallum Principal Mike Garrison said everyone is looking forward to using the theater in the fall. "Our space is limited, we had the smallest theater in the district and one of the largest theater programs," he said, adding that students will benefit from the additional space and the opportunity to work in different spaces. "It provides a performance space that better accommodates our large ensembles –



McCallum Theater

band, orchestra, and choir," he said.

State-of-the-art features include advanced rigging, lighting and audio/video control systems using the latest technology, and a full height fly loft. Cutting-edge green building practices were used along with polycarbonate windows. The building contains a high percentage of recycled materials and densified polished concrete floors throughout and is on track to attain four stars from the Austin Energy Green Building Program.

Principal Garrison said staff at McCallum worked on the project from the out-

set of the design process by attending meetings, answering questions and requesting modifications. "There were lots of compromises to accommodate the special needs of the Fine Arts Academy while respecting the standards of Austin ISD's performing arts spaces in order to keep the new theater equitable with other AISD campus theaters," he said.

In addition to the theater spaces, there will be three art classrooms with 1,630 square feet of space each plus storage rooms. The architect for the project was the SHW Group, mechanical and electrical engineering was done by HMG and Associates, Gil Engineering did the Civil Engineering, JQ Engineering did structural engineering and Flinto provided the actual construction work.

The theater features a metal roof, and anyone who hasn't seen the front of the theater should take a detour along Sunshine and get a look at the entrance. The roof covering the entrance features sharp lines that are very dramatic, something that fits a structure that will host many student productions for years to come. ❖

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# Highlights from the May 26 ANA Executive Committee Meeting

Cynthia Keohane

The EC discussed a postcard that Joi Chevalier designed to communicate with members. Board members like the design and agreed that we may want to use it to contact volunteers for the July 4 Parade.

Joi and Tom Linehan will look into adding a membership form link to the Allandale Reporter web site. Currently, the website allows joining via PayPal but does not collect member information such as a contact phone number, email address, or volunteer interests.

Donna Beth McCormick reported on plans for the July 4 Parade. She is coordinating scouts, politicians, booths such as voter registration, and more. Joe Reynolds is organizing setup and take-down as well as permits. Cynthia Keohane is organizing parade judging. Volunteers are needed; contact Donna Beth at [dbmc@texas.net](mailto:dbmc@texas.net).

The Board voted to compensate the webmaster for developing web ads. Compensation will be 100% of the ad revenue for the first five web ads and 50% of revenue beyond that, per month.

Laura DiCarlo reported that an October 1 bike rodeo at Sheffield Northwest Park is under discussion as a possible collaboration effort and she will look into insurance.

Rob Robinson reported on the Short Term Rental (STR) committee and its involvement with the Planning Commission (PC) Working Group. A number of Allandale residents, including current and prior board members, ANA STR committee members, and others, are meeting with three Planning Commission members and STR advocates to draft recommended regulations for STRs. The PC representatives are Mandy Dealey, Sandra Kirk, and Danette Chimenti. Mandy

Dealey, who chairs the PC Codes and Ordinance Committee, stated that the committee will make its own ordinance proposal if the working group does not vote on a recommendation.

We received an update on a proposed project at 5453 Burnet. Ardent Residential is requesting a change in zoning and exploring a stop light at Burnet at Shoalmont Drive. The development is an apartment building and has five stories. Several ANA members have attended meetings held by Brentwood Neighborhood Association and Ardent, and will let ANA know if they want an ANA-sponsored meeting.

Peggy Maceo suggested changing the neighborhood boundaries past the center of Burnet Road. The EC discussed pros and cons; Peggy will research this and we will have further discussion. ❖



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Offer expires June 30, 2011. Available only at the 5020 Burnet Road Subway.

## Another Burnet Road Mixed Use Development Being Considered

Tom Linehan

Another large apartment complex is in the planning stages for Burnet Road. Brett Denton and Art Carpenter with Ardent Residential, the real estate development firm that developed the 5350 Burnet Road property down the street from the proposed new development, have met with the Brentwood Neighborhood Association seeking input on plans for the new Vertical Mixed Use (VMU) development at 5453 Burnet Road. The development would be very similar to the 5350 Burnet Road development but with more units. The property being considered for development is on a 2.4 acre tract on the east side of Burnet Road near Karavel Shoes. Uptown Modern, the Frame Corner, and Fiskens Antiques are some of the retail tenants currently located on the property.

According to the site plan presented to Brentwood (see photo), the mixed use development is largely an apartment complex with limited office space on the

small portion of the property that fronts Burnet Road. This space will largely be used for the development's leasing office. No retail is currently being considered. The structure will be five stories in height on the part of the tract with the frontage along Burnet Road. Due to compatibility restrictions, the height will decrease to four stories along the northern property line of the overall project



*Location for proposed vertical mixed use development at Burnet and Adams*

and to three stories along Clay Avenue.

Ardent Residential, which is under contract to buy the property from the Covert

*Continued on page 8*



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## Another Burnet Road Mixed Use Development Being Considered

*Continued from page 7*

family, is seeking a zoning change from commercial to VMU, which would allow it to build approximately 200 units compared to the existing zoning which would limit it to fewer than 175 units. By comparison, the 5350 Burnet Road development down the street, which is almost fully occupied, has 170 units. Regardless of whether they are successful in getting the zoning change, the property's current zoning allows them to build a large apartment complex.

The proposed site plan has the only entrance and exit into the development's parking garage on Adams Avenue, the adjoining residential street. Residents on that street are already complaining about how difficult it is turning on to the heavily-trafficked Burnet Road from Adams. The development will only make it worse. Brentwood is asking that the entrance and exit be on Burnet Road to minimize through traffic on the nearby residential

streets as people attempt to avoid the Burnet Road / Adams intersection to get out of the neighborhood. Ardent Residential is currently having a traffic study conducted and exploring what it would take to have a traffic light installed where Adams Avenue intersects Burnet Road. Yes, that's right, another traffic light on Burnet Road. Other concerns had to do with increased street parking along Adams Avenue.

The Brentwood neighborhood association has had two meetings with Ardent along with a number of smaller meetings with Brentwood representatives to identify and address the neighborhood's concerns. Ardent said it is probably 15 to 18 months from breaking ground on the project. You can find additional information about the proposed project at the Brentwood Neighborhood Association web site <http://brentwoodaustin.blogspot.com>. ❖

## Austin's Comprehensive Plan to Place 20,000 New Residences, Jobs on Anderson Lane

*Steven Zettner*

Austin's emerging Comprehensive Plan will add approximately 15,000 new residences and 5,000 new offices and retail jobs on Anderson Lane between MoPac and Burnet, according to the Preferred Growth Scenario approved by the City Council in March.

This represents an increase of about 11,250 residents over the amount that staff discussed with neighborhood leaders in January, before the scenario went to Council. Neighborhood leaders first learned of the increased density on May 2, when staff presented an updated version of the scenario map.

At a meeting with neighborhood leaders on January 6, Comprehensive Plan staff presented a scenario draft that showed Anderson as a mile-long Mixed Use Corridor, implying 3,750 new residents and 1,250 new jobs. This amount

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could be supported with the existing zoning on Anderson. Staff at the meeting proposed moving another 5,000 jobs and offices to the area around Anderson at MoPac as part of a proposed commuter rail station district. Neighborhood representatives from Allandale and North Shoal Creek at that time explained their official position, endorsed by the City Council during the Vertical Mixed Use (VMU) zoning process, that staff must present a viable circulation plan that deflects traffic off of Shoal Creek Boulevard before adding new density.

Allandale and North Shoal Creek neighborhood associations are preparing a letter to Comprehensive Plan staff asking that the Anderson corridor be discussed in more detail before a final decision regarding new density is made. Besides traffic circulation, the neighborhoods are concerned that this is the only density center of such magnitude in the scenario that has never gone through any formal planning. The corridor has almost no pedestrian-friendly open space, and existing or proposed city requirements would not alleviate that issue. Also, Capital Metro has no plan for a rapid bus line on Anderson, and its planned rapid bus station on Burnet Road is too far south of Anderson Lane to serve as a hub. ❖

## New Open Space Ordinance Encourages VMU Rooftops

Steven Zettner

The draft open space ordinance going to City Council in June lets Vertical Mixed Use (VMU) developers put all of their required public open space above street-level – in rooftop patios and balconies.

VMU is the predominant zoning category along streets like Burnet Road. An example is the recent development at 5350 Burnet.

The ordinance requires commercial and VMU developments of two acres or larger to set aside at least 5% of their site for open space accessible to the public, something that many neighborhood activists have specifically sought. The ordinance states that up to 30% of “above-ground” open space, like rooftop patios, can count toward the open space requirement. However, VMU is exempted from the 30% rule – all open space on a VMU development can be above ground.

Residents of neighborhoods surrounding the West Campus UNO (University Neighbor-

hood Overlay) district near the University of Texas opposed the ordinance at a Planning Commission meeting on May 24, citing existing problems with privacy and noise that rooftop patios would exacerbate.

Sustainable Neighborhoods of North Central Austin, a group that seeks to balance environmental with livability goals on mixed use corridors, has consistently pointed out that VMU corridors in our part of town lack ground-level open space to encourage pedestrian connectivity, especially near the rapid bus stations due to begin operation in 2013. Above-ground open space does nothing to encourage pedestrian connectivity or transit use. Above-ground space is also less community friendly, since many people may not even know that the space exists and is accessible.

Allandale and Crestview residents at the Planning Commission meeting requested that the City perform a review of mixed use corridors outside of downtown, prior to making a decision about whether all above-ground space in VMU developments can count towards minimum open space. The request was passed over without discussion.

Council Member Laura Morrison requested that the proposed Open Space ordinance be placed on the agenda of the Comp Plan and Transportation Subcommittee agenda for June 6. ❖

## Meet Joi Chevalier, ANA Executive Committee Member

Tom Linehan

### How long have you been in Austin and in Allandale?

I've been in Austin since 1986, when I arrived to attend UT. I bought my home in Allandale in 1999.

### What made you decide to join the ANA Executive Committee?

The Allandale community is very unique in its ability to affect the shape and tone of the neighborhood. I wanted to be a direct participant in that process, instead of being only a regular beneficiary of the work done by many others. Allandale is great not by magic or happenstance, but because of the efforts of many people, in visible and sometimes quieter ways. It was easy to choose to continue helping in that process.

### How long have you been involved with the Neighborhood Association, and in what capacity?

Our household has been a member of ANA for several years. I participated as a vendor in the Allandale picnic, attended the general meetings, and was a sponsor of 2010 Movie Night. My

*Continued on page 10*

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## Meet Joi Chevalier, ANA Executive Committee Member

*Continued from page 9*

husband, Jon, is the administrator of the Allandale listserv. However, only in the last year did I indicate to a board member that I was willing to do more.

### **What one or two things do you like most about Allandale?**

I love the quiet within the central part of the city. Our trees are magnificent, neighbors generally care for their homes and habitats, and there is a sense of pride that drives folks to keep Allandale as special as it is. That energy is pretty cool. And...it's way convenient to get to anywhere around Austin.

### **If you had good friends visit from out of town and this was their first time to Austin, where would you take them?**

When my friends visit, I tend to take

them to Central Market, or to something Tex-Mex or BBQ focused. I'll drag folks to the Texas History Museum, around the Highland Lakes, drive through the UT Campus, and Zilker Park. We've walked through Wild Basin, stopped at the lookout between the hills down from Davenport Ranch. Right outside of Austin, we will take guests to Longhorn Caverns.

### **Who are some of your favorite music artists at this time?**

Recently, I've been listening to Kanye West, Duran Duran, Coldplay, My Morning Jacket, Adele, Stevie Wonder, Earth, Wind & Fire, The Beatles, and always nearby is Duncan Sheik. Of local bands, Sanchoville and Sarah Sharp.



*ANA Executive Committee Member, Joi Chevalier*

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# How Allandale Voted in the May 2011 City Council Elections

Tom Linehan

Allandale residents voted with the rest of the City for their choice of City Council members in the May City Council election. Combined, the three precincts that make up Allandale, Precincts

236, 239, and 243, voted overwhelmingly for Chris Riley in Place 1 (75% compared to 66% citywide), for Laura Morrison in Place 4 (84% compared to 73% citywide), and for Kathie Tovo (61% compared to

46% citywide). You can get the full set of results on the Travis County web site: [www.co.travis.tx.us](http://www.co.travis.tx.us).

City Council Candidates	Votes	Precinct 236 (Rosedale)	Votes	Precinct 239 (Gullett)	Votes	Precinct 243 (Ben Hur Shriners Hall)
<b>PLACE 1, AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL</b>						
Josiah James Ingalls	8	1.8%	15	3.7%	22	8.8%
Chris Riley	369	80.6%	302	73.8%	165	66.0%
Roger Chan	69	15.1%	84	20.5%	52	20.8%
Norman Jacobson	12	2.6%	8	2.0%	11	4.4%
<b>Total Votes Counted in This Race:</b>	458	100.0%	409	100.0%	250	100.0%
<b>PLACE 3, AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL</b>						
Kathie Tovo	285	60.3%	295	67.5%	131	49.8%
Michael "Max" Nofziger	44	9.3%	42	9.6%	43	16.4%
Kris Bailey	15	3.2%	9	2.1%	13	4.9%
Randi Shade	129	27.3%	91	20.8%	76	28.9%
<b>Total Votes Counted in This Race:</b>	473	100.0%	437	100.0%	263	100.0%
<b>PLACE 4, AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL</b>						
Laura Morrison	395	85.5%	357	84.6%	204	80.6%
Eric J. Rangel	47	10.2%	37	8.8%	32	12.7%
K. Toby Ryan Hill	20	4.3%	28	6.6%	17	6.7%
<b>Total Votes Counted in This Race:</b>	462	100.0%	422	100.0%	253	100.00%
<b>Total Ballots Cast in Precinct</b>	476	16.7%	437	18.4%	264	15.6%
Total registered voters in precinct	2,847		2,374		1691	

Source: Travis County Clerk's web site.



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## Allandale Storm Drain Improve- ments Project Update

*Stephanie Lott*

Construction on the Allandale Storm Drain Improvements Project is currently on schedule to be completed in January 2012. The contractor, Texas Sterling, is laying the box culvert along Bull Creek Road. The culvert is a rectangular concrete pipe that, when completed, will carry storm water runoff to Shoal Creek and significantly reduce the likelihood of flooding from runoff in the neighborhood.

Construction on the box culvert started at the creek and by the end of May was on Bull Creek Road between Northland and Allandale. The contractor still needs to run the culvert up to White Horse Trail. In addition, storm drain pipes will be installed along White Horse Trail and Nasco Drive.

The project also includes additional work on water lines and wastewater lines, and the installation of curbside inlets. The streets will be repaired before the end of the project.

There's more information on the web site at [www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/flood\\_allandale.htm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/flood_allandale.htm).

To sign up for email updates on the project, please send an email to [Stephanie.Lott@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:Stephanie.Lott@ci.austin.tx.us).

Stephanie Lott  
Public Information Specialist Senior  
City of Austin  
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## It's Parade Time Again!

Donna Beth McCormick

July 4th, 2011 – this will be the 52nd (you count the year it started) appearance of the Allandale Neighborhood Parade. Begun in 1960, it has been a constant presence every year. It has grown to include prizes, elected officials, lots of Scouts (boys and girls of all sizes), cars, bikes, trikes, walkers, pets, bands, and we can include more. We have booths with food and voter registration. It is a true July 4th event! And, the best in town!!

For years Big Red, the fire truck, led the parade; but in recent years Big Red has been getting a new life and a new engine and has not been with us. We will have Big Red back, we hope, at some later date.

We could not have the parade without the participation of all the Scouts. They carry the banner, the flags, and the signs of elected officials, and they provide the presentation of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance at the program.

We want to have some musical participation at the ceremony. This is a call to our community, especially our Middle and High School musicians who can sing and play instruments, to perform.

This is also a call for volunteers. We really need volunteers to help with the



Allandale 4th of July Parade

line up of the various categories in the parade, to register those who want to compete for prizes, to help with setup at Gullett, and to help clean up.

To join the July 4th parade – just show up – decorate yourself, decorate your

vehicle, and simply march. This is what Allandale Neighborhood is all about! To volunteer, contact me at [dbmc@texas.net](mailto:dbmc@texas.net) or 453-2696.

See you at the parade! ❖

## Allandale Annual Garage Sale – Another Success

Donna Beth McCormick

The annual garage sale, the third in the neighborhood, was May 7. We coordinate our garage sale with St. John's Methodist. The more exposure, the better the sales! This year we had 40+ homes that signed up to participate. This is a service of the Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA). You do not have to be an ANA member to participate, but why not

join so that you can reap the benefits as an active participant! The garage sale was advertised in the *Statesman*, on Craigslist, on our website, and in Google Maps. From my visits and driving around, the participants sold a lot of stuff!

It's never too early to plan ahead for next year – save the date – the first Saturday in May. ❖



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## Neighborhood Watch

Laura DiCarlo

Unfortunately we have had quite a bit of criminal activity in April and May, some of which may be attributed to the warm weather and kids doing their thing as summer approaches. We don't see many auto thefts here in Allandale, but there were two during the months of April and May. A car was stolen on April 30 from Sarah Court and on May 14 from Bull Creek. Both were recovered, according to Austin Police Department (APD) records, within the city limits, but no arrests were made in either case.

The morning of April 19, at least a dozen vehicle owners on the streets just east of Shoal Creek between White Horse Trail and Cavileer found that their cars had been gone through in the night. Some of the cars were unlocked while others were locked. Valuables such as laptops were stolen out of some, while others had little to nothing taken. This reminds us all to NOT have valuables showing in our cars, to park in a garage or carport at night if possible, and to lock our doors. A person who leaves his or her car on the street unlocked with something valuable showing is allowing a crime of opportunity. I realize some people believe that it should be our right to leave our doors open but the bottom line is that if we want to keep our property safe we must make it as hard as possible for someone to steal it.

Other burglary of vehicles (BOVs) in April occurred on Great Northern Boulevard, Perry Lane, Woodview, and North Loop. Items taken included GPSs and radios.

Burglary of Residences (BORs) in April occurred on Placid Place, Woodview, North Loop, and (attempted) Shoal-

wood. Bikes were stolen in April from North Loop and Fairlane. If anyone lives in the apartments on North Loop and is interested in Neighborhood Watch please let me know as we have a need.

So far in the month of May there have been BOVs on Lawnmont, Greenlawn, and Shoal Creek. Laptops were taken out of at least two of these vehicles, and perhaps more.

At the writing of this article on May 25, there have been 3 BORs between the 6900 and 7300 blocks of Daugherty already in May. Homes on the east side of Daugherty have businesses behind them with what I've been told by residents is inadequate fencing.

There was a break-in last week in which the back of house was entered between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. despite barking dogs. Please keep gates to your back yard closed and locked when you're not home, install 3-inch screws in all of your strike plates if you have not already, and speak through the door to say you do not open the door for strangers if someone knocks at the front. If you respond, they know someone is home and will be less likely to try to enter.

I received an e-mail just yesterday about a very scary incident on Janey last week. A resident came home with his baby to find a burglar at his back door. According to the resident,

*The assailant was wearing surgical gloves and it looked as if he had just entered the house. When he saw me, and when I asked what he was doing in my house, he ran out the back and hopped over my fence into my neighbors yard. I got back in my truck and went around to try and track him while I was on the phone with the 911 operator.*

*I saw him hopping fences along the houses between Bullard and Janey, headed toward the park. The police took a good 20 to 30 minutes to get over to my house, so he was long gone by then. (Not impressed with their response time, by the way!). I believe there was another burglar with him in the back of the house that I did not know about when I was chasing after him. I had an ipod and some small stuff missing from the back, but nothing from the front of the house. We had iPads, iPods, Playstations, laptops, Apple TV's and several other small, valuable items that were ripe for the taking. That's why I believe there was a second burglar in the back. There would have been no reason to enter from the outside where I encountered the first burglar. I believe I passed the second burglar when I was alarming the neighbors of the burglary and telling them the description. What I believe to be the second burglar was walking very fast with a backpack. When I asked him if he'd seen a 5'10" white male in his mid-twenties jumping fences he said that he had not. I asked him if he was from the neighborhood and he said he wasn't, and he looked very nervous the whole time. It was a very strange interaction and when I was driving off, he yelled, 'I'm going to watch my son's baseball game.' This guy did not look like he had a son, and when I went to the fields 20 minutes later to look for him, he was nowhere to be found.*

*I believe they had been casing my house, and probably several others in the area as they knew exactly when I was gone.*

### The descriptions of the men are:

1st assailant: white male, 5'10", dark blond hair, goatee, 165 lbs in his mid-to-late twenties

2nd assailant: white male, 5'11", black

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hair, scruff, sideburns, spacers in ears, multiple hoop earrings, black socks, camouflage shorts, large backpack.

If you see any suspicious activity, please call 911 and put an entry in our log on the Austin Neighborhood Association (ANA) website.

Likewise, graffiti is still an issue, and thank you to those people who call it in and let me know. I call it in weekly and erase it as well. I spoke with APD detective Fred Simpson, who said there is very little chance of an investigator finding an assailant if there are no leads. However, it is still important to take pictures and send them to central west detectives (311 will give you the right email address as it depends on the area) so they may analyze them for gang activity.

I will close with some summer vacation safety tips:

1. Leave a house key with just one neighbor, not under the mat.

2. Tell only those who need to know that you are going away.

3. Leave inside and outside lights on a timer to look like someone is home.

4. Leave a car in the carport or garage to look like someone is home.

5. Report vacation activities on Facebook or other social media outlets only AFTER you return.

6. Stop your paper or make sure someone is picking it up for you.

7. Ask someone to check for fliers on your door when you're away.

Take care and have a safe summer! ♦



## Gardening with Humor

*Ginger Soule'*

I planned to talk about tomatoes this issue, but that would take up enough space to fill a pamphlet. That's not practical for a newsletter with many issues to address, so here's a departure from "useful info."

Long-time gardeners are usually comfortable with the various insects and critters found in yards and gardens and don't react except to something really dangerous. Kids, on the other hand, have some interesting reactions.

In mid-fall with the cooler weather, ladybugs and green lacewings will congregate around a sheltered porch light and some inevitably get into the house.

*Continued on page 17*

## ALLANDALE IS WIRED

Current Allandale Listserve Membership: 1103 (see Allandale web site, [www.allandalereporter.org](http://www.allandalereporter.org) on how to join)

Average number of daily visits to the Allandale web site: 60

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## Gardening with Humor

*Continued from page 16*

One morning while I was getting ready for work, my junior high-aged son shouted “MUH-THER, do I have to eat breakfast in the midst of this menagerie?!” That certainly piqued my curiosity so I headed for the dining room. There I saw a ladybug crawling on the rim of the sugar bowl and two lacewings buzzing around in the overhead light fixture. For those unacquainted with green lacewings, they, like ladybugs, are excellent garden predators on small insects such as aphids and spider mites. Unlike ladybugs, they are mostly nocturnal so fewer people have encountered them. They are about half an inch long with pale green elongated tear-drop shaped body and transparent iridescent wings. Their eggs are a tiny pale gray dot atop a stiff thread evenly spaced in clusters. If you see these, don’t destroy them. Their larvae look like a tiny gray alligators one-fourth of an inch long. Ladybug eggs are golden yellow, oval shaped, about one-sixteenth of an inch long, and packed tightly together. Ladybug larvae look like quarter-inch black & orange alligators.

When my niece and nephew ages six and eight would come to visit, they

couldn’t wait to go dig in my compost pile for garden snakes and green beetles. Talk about “turning your compost pile!”

We still haven’t identified which beetle we were finding; they were around only in the early fall.

My two out-of-town granddaughters, on the other hand, wanted nothing to do with anything creepy or crawly. They love to sing, however and after hearing me complain that harlequin bugs had arrived, made up a song to the tune of *Round and Round the Mulberry Bush*: “harlequin bugs on the broccoli plants, broccoli plants, broccoli plants. Harlequin bugs on the broccoli plants so early in the morning.”

For those who’ve never grown brassicas (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, brussel sprouts, and all varieties of mustard), you know the productive season is over for these veggies when the harlequin bugs arrive in very early spring. The bugs are very colorful - black and bright orange with an ornate pattern on their backs. They are very destructive and their vivid coloration warns birds not to eat them. Their eggs look like a double row of tightly packed, tiny staved barrels. You have my permission to squash any eggs of those pests you find!

I hope all of you enjoy your yards and gardens as much as I do. ❖

## Gullett Good News

*Stephanie Schulz*

### Splish-Splash! School’s Out for Summer

Many Gullett students celebrated the last day of school by cooling down with a splash party at Northwest pool. Eagerly anticipating the summer months when they didn’t have to be somewhere at 7:45 a.m. every day, the Geckos flocked (or did they slither?) to the neighborhood hot spot. What a great way to kick off the summer!

### Spring Things!

April and May were busy months for the Geckos. Once again, the students celebrated their hard work in art class with the annual art show. The two-day show – under the direction of Nicki Leatherwood – was a hit. In addition to the usual highlights of art, snacks and music, students were invited to bring their own t-shirts for screen-printing. Many Geckos now have shirts with green geckos and gray Lego Indiana Jones characters.

During the spring, our students played fun games at family game night, gave stellar choir concerts, dazzled audiences at the talent shows, and continued to walk to school on Wednesdays. Wow!

*Continued on page 19*

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## Gullett Good News

*Continued from page 17*

### Dance on, Fifth Grade Graduates

Our fifth grade party proved to be a good time for our graduates. As part of their good-bye, our eldest students got the chance to dance, play games, and hang out on May 27 at the school.

"It's a pretty cool event to have right before we're going to middle school," said one boy before the party. "But I don't know about the dancing part!"

### Symphony and Other Field Trip Notes

The fifth graders also got to appreciate mellow music before the end of the school year with a trip to the symphony. The fourth graders tagged along on the trip where they were all required to dress up.

"I didn't think I would like it," said a fourth grader. "But it was very calm and relaxing to listen to the music, even though it didn't have words. But a girl sitting behind me fell asleep!"

The symphony director picked two students to come onto the stage and play the piano. Gracie from Gullett was ecstatic after being selected. "I got to play the grand piano!" she joyfully shouted after school.

Many other classes took field trips during the last month of school. Our students went to

farms, parks, museums, the Capitol, the nature center, and more.

### Good-bye Teachers

Gullett not only said good-bye to its fifth graders this year, it also said good-bye to some of its favorite teachers. Pamela Johnson, after 26 years, retired. The kindergarten teacher has touched the lives of many Gullett students and will be missed. Past and present students – even a current college student or two – wished Ms. Johnson luck on May 26 at a small reception in her classroom.

Rayanne O'Brien is also leaving the school, although she is going for a different reason – a new and exciting opportunity. Ms. O'Brien will be principal at a private school in Round Rock, where she previously worked as a teacher.

Gullett also said farewell to its school counselor, Katherine Kolander, who is moving to Pease Elementary. While she is sad to leave the Gullett family, Ms. Kolander is excited about the shorter commute and a smaller campus.

### Summer Notes

While classes are not in session this summer, many Geckos will hit campus

for different activities. From camps in the library where students get a head start on Bluebonnet books, to science and math camps, and even to more than one movie-making camp, our students can take advantage of many activities.

Kindergarten playdates give our newest Geckos a chance to meet kids who might be classmates in the fall. Incoming kindergartners are invited to the kinder playground on the following dates:

Tuesday, June 14; 9 a.m.  
Saturday, July 9; 9 a.m.  
Thursday, July 14; 6 p.m.  
Saturday, August 6; 9 a.m.  
Tuesday, August 9; 9 a.m.  
Tuesday, August 16; 9 a.m.

### Other important dates

- Back-to-School Skate Party: Thursday, August 19
- vMeet the Teacher Day: Friday, August 20
- First Day of School: August 23 ❖

### Letters to the Editor:

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## Dog Talk: Storm Phobia

Cheryl Silver, [csilver2@austin.rr.com](mailto:csilver2@austin.rr.com)

I have been writing this column for a number of years and at times I forget which topics I have already addressed (I do welcome your requests for topics to address). I don't recall addressing this topic and it is important, so, "Here we go."

This article will address strategies for easing your dog's storm phobias. I am focusing on it because a neighbor recently contacted me asking for assistance and we were able to effect a significant improvement in her dog's response to a storm that materialized the night after our discussion.

Her little Jack Russell terrier would pace and pant during storms. She had not spoken with her veterinarian about her concerns.

I shared that in the past, my own Airedale, Daisy, would become frantic during storms and would insist upon dragging her nails across any metal object she

could reach...typically she targeted the metal handles on my file cabinet, the surge protector under my desk, the door of any crate she could get to hold still and the metal edging around our glass shower door. It was very, very worrisome. My veterinarian suggested that a medication called acepromazine might help, and it did make her as loopy as you can imagine. I was not happy with this effect, but I tolerated it until I happened to try something I was exposed to in a T-Touch, or Tellington Touch, class.

What I tried was to wrap Daisy's torso snugly in an Ace bandage (I have pictures if you are interested). I simply secured it with safety pins. The effect was essentially immediate...I couldn't believe it. She simply took a deep sigh and laid down calmly. We never again used any medication. When she sensed a storm approaching she would walk into the bathroom to the drawer where the bandages were stored. She never resisted the wrapping and never tried to remove the elastic bandage. Those who have swaddled a baby and have seen the outcome

or those who are familiar with Temple Grandin and her squeeze-box won't be surprised by the effectiveness of the wrap.

Long before I knew of the wrap I dealt with this problem with my beloved Airedale boy, Henry my Honey. I found that making a bed for him in the bathroom, turning on the exhaust fan at top speed, and masking the sight of lightning by turning on all the lights provided him with relief. A box fan sort of aimed at the dog and turned to high speed can modulate the sound of thunder and help some dogs.

Rescue Remedy (a substance you can purchase at Sun Harvest) gives some dogs relief; others are comforted by being in total dark (such as a closet or a crate that is covered by a quilt) or by being given the opportunity to lie down in a shower or tub.



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Leaving a dog outside during storms is one of the reasons so many stray dogs are turned in to our local shelter – the storms terrify them and they may jump a fence in a misguided attempt to get away from the frightening thunder and lightning. If your dog does not have storm phobia at this point, don't believe that you are "home free." Some dogs who were not phobic when young develop the phobia as they age. Finally, in an ironic twist, some dogs who are phobic when young may become nonchalant about storms as they age; these dogs may very well have lost their hearing!! If you notice this change, it might be wise to talk to your vet about it or even to test the dog yourself by making a loud startling sound with pots and pans; do this in such a way that the dog is totally unaware of the test. Personally, I have seen that change in response in a number of my dogs, i.e., one becoming fearful and the other losing the anxiety.

Let me know if I can help,  
512.454.7219. ❖

## Wood-boring Beetles of Trees

*Wizzie Brown*

There are numerous beetles that can be found on trees, but this article focuses on two groups specifically: round-headed borers and flat-headed borers. Borers can be damaging to trees that are newly planted or weakened and stressed by conditions such as drought, frost damage or mechanical damage.

Round-headed borer larvae are creamy white with round heads and no legs. Adults are often called long-horned beetles because of their long antennae that can extend past the tip of their abdomen. Eggs are laid in wounds, in crevices, or under bark on trees that are stressed or in poor health. Larvae bore under bark into the heartwood of the tree. They may leave a round opening where sawdust-like material, called frass, and sap may exude.

Flat-headed borers have creamy white

larvae, legless with a flattened head area. Adults are bullet-shaped, often with metallic colors on the body. Eggs are laid around cracks or wounds of stressed trees, but some species will attack healthy trees. Larvae bore into the cambium under the bark and then move into the heartwood.

It's best to keep trees in good health. Try to plant native or adapted trees that perform well in Central Texas. Properly water and fertilize trees; water is especially important during drought conditions. Avoid wounding above-ground parts of the tree.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist, at 512-854-9600. Check out my blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com). ❖

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## Constable's Notebook

Constable Bruce Elfant

Thomas Fuller observed back in 1732 that "We never know the worth of water till the well is dry." With a rapidly increasing population along with oil and gas production and agricultural use, demands for water are outpacing the supply, which in the coming years will threaten many communities and ensure significantly higher water rates. Many state water experts believe that there is no more important issue facing Texas than ensuring an adequate water supply for future generations.

Under State law, surface water (lakes and rivers) belongs to the State of Texas. And in Texas, water is a finite resource. State law and many court rulings have established that groundwater (underground streams and aquifers) belongs to individual property owners. River authorities such as the Lower Colorado River Authority regulate surface water, and groundwater districts have limited regulatory authority over pumping of water. River authorities have more regulatory authority, but they have to balance the available supply of water with the

increasing demands within their service areas. When cities like Austin receive more water it also means that rice farmers downstream receive less water. When we're in a drought, everyone has less water.

Under the "right of capture" doctrine, property owners have the right to pump virtually an unlimited amount of water from under their property, either for personal use or for resale to other businesses and communities. Business Week Magazine described Texas laws regarding pumping groundwater as "unusually lax." In fact, state court rulings have determined that a property owner's right to pump water prevails even if their neighbor's water supply may be adversely affected. A few years back, Ozarka Water was sued by neighbors for malicious and negligent pumping of groundwater in association with its bottling business; the Texas Supreme Court ruled that, under the "rule of capture," it was OK for Ozarka to drain its neighbor's water supply. T. Boone Pickens, the oil baron, and now the largest individual owner of water in the nation, has bought up land and substantial water rights under an aquifer that serves as the primary source of

water in the Panhandle. Others are also scrambling to buy up water rights throughout Texas. Community leaders across the state have expressed concerns that their future water supplies are being threatened by the basically unregulated sale of large amounts of water from their underground aquifers that is then being piped to other parts of Texas.

State legislators have considered establishing and funding a 50-year water plan for Texas but have failed to act. For any state plan to be effective or affordable, the Legislature will have to address the inherent conflict between the rights of property owners to pump unlimited amounts of water versus the rights of their neighbors and the greater community. Cities and counties will also have to strike a balance between the rights of their citizens to use as much water as they can afford and the necessity to limit use and mandate aggressive conservation and water-efficiency measures.

Thomas Fuller warned us nearly 300 years ago that we shouldn't wait to act until the water in the well runs dry or becomes too expensive. Let me know what you think at [bruce.elfant@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:bruce.elfant@co.travis.tx.us). ❖

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